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# 9 April 2020

## WEEKLY BULLETIN

ETOA, like all other organisations in the travel and tourism industry, has been affected by the crisis. We are focusing on lobbying, industry engagement and information. In <u>this letter to members</u>, Tom Jenkins, ETOA's CEO, explains how the organisation has adapted to meet the current challenge.





ETOA has launched a new <u>COVID-19 hub</u>. This provides the latest information about ETOA activity and resources, including links to our webinars, and the <u>COVID-19</u> resources page which provides detailed information on financial support, health guidance and travel restrictions.



The <u>COVID-19 resources page</u> is reviewed and updated regularly with notifications on which sections updated at the top of the page. In the last week, notable updates include:

- The European Commission has published a <u>map</u> which details the current cross-border travel restrictions and other containment measures for 35 European countries.
- The International Air Transport Association has published a <u>page</u> detailing border restrictions per country.
- UNWTO has published a <u>report</u> with recommendations for governments and the private sector to mitigate the impact and prepare for recovery from COVID-19.
- <u>Update on business rates relief</u> and cash grants for a wider selection of tourism businesses located in England. This follows lobbying by ETOA in conjunction with other trade associations through the Tourism Alliance with the Local Government Association. Different criteria applies in Northern Ireland,

Scotland and Wales and information on the devolved nations business support can be found in our UK section.

• The Paris Convention and Visitor Bureau (OTCP) has <u>listed</u> the events (cultural and business) that have been postponed or cancelled.

#### ETOA's current lobbying priorities are:

- Access to liquidity, especially for SMEs
- Resolution to cancellation and refund policies
- Better practical information to enable future planning

ETOA contributes at weekly Brussels briefings with industry stakeholders and the EC. On behalf of <u>NET</u> we joined ETC, and CEOs of Accor Group, Amadeus, Bookdifferent.com, Costa and TUI to discuss business impact, priorities and 'Day After' planning with Commissioner Thierry Breton. We spoke at NECSTouR's conference exploring EU and regional tourism authorities' response, and discussed measures required to mitigate the impact of the crisis and build a recovery. We spoke at the OECD's first virtual Tourism Committee and listened to national government perspectives. For more information on policy activity, click <u>here</u>.

### **ETOA** webinars

Get involved: ETOA is delivering webinars ranging from informal drop-ins and factfinding, to expert advice, plans for destination recovery and origin market insights. For more information, and an archive of past webinars, click <u>here</u>.



#### CityFair 2020 has been rescheduled to July 20th

While the near future is uncertain, what is sure is that plans for late 2020 and 2021 are in progress, buyers are rethinking their offer, and suppliers are newly focused on domestic markets. Destinations are rethinking their strategies and new product ideas are developing. CityFair has always been a good mid-season opportunity to meet and talk: this year, we hope it will help to stimulate the recovery. Find out more and register <u>here</u>.